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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, restorer of the joy of those who find You, we praise Your holy name. Thank You for giving us lifetime favor and for Your unchanging faithfulness. You turn our mourning into dancing and clothe us with gladness.

Today we pray for our Senators. Shine Your light of wisdom on them and be gracious to them. Remove from them contention and strife as You infuse them with humility. Keep Your arms of protection around them and their loved ones in these challenging times.

Lift Your mighty scepter over our military and bless it with success. Lord, rule in the midst of Your world until the kingdom of Earth will acknowledge Your sovereignty. Let Your mighty name protect us as You give us our heart's desires.

We place our trust in You, the Lord our God. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today we will have a period for morning business throughout the afternoon. Under a previous unanimous-consent agreement, we will vote on passage of the Military Construction appropriations bill at 5:30 p.m. today. The final 10 minutes prior to the vote is scheduled for closing remarks on the MILCON legislation. As a reminder, we have also reached an agreement for consideration of the Legislative Branch appropriations bill and will be scheduling that matter for tomorrow's session. As always, Members will be notified as additional votes are scheduled.

We have a number of other legislative and executive matters that are possible this week, including additional appropriations bills, the nomination of PORTER GOSS to be Director of the CIA, and an extension of various expiring family tax provisions.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate for its attention. I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for debate only with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Chair inquires, does the Senator from Nevada wish to suggest the absence of a quorum?

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. STEVENS pertaining to the submission of the resolution are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I came to the Senate, I practiced law for many years in my home state of Nevada. I was an attorney who went to court all the time, and I often went to Federal court. There is a tremendous difference between State courts and Federal courts. There is more solemnity in the Federal courts. There are more procedures that are important to the establishment of justice and maintaining justice in our Federal court system. The main reason for this is that our Federal judges are appointed for life. They are not subject to the whims of a political issue at any given time. They know that if they rule a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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